THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE INISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The cond High level ODA Mission on :onomic and Technological Cooperation)m Japan held talks with officials in the inistry of Finance on 28.3.95, during iich, in accordance with Japanese ODA)licy since 1992, the Japanese side ferred to certain non-economic factors)n-proliferation of nuclear weapons and issile delivery systems and trends in :fence expenditure.

(c) The Japanese delelgation was iefed about India's commitment to non-oliferation and disarmament. They ere informed that our defence :penditure as a percentage of GDP was ie of the lowest in the region. It was)inted out that these issues are scussed regularly in Foreign Office)nsultations.

oast Guard to Combat Environmental disasters

4706. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR IRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be leased to state:

(a) whether the Coast Guard propose) enhance surveillance for combating nvironmental disasters;

(b) if so, the details of the plans nvisaged by Coast Guard;

(c) whether the Coast Guard is facing inancial constrain to effectively mplement their plans; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):(a) to (d) A National :ontingency plan to enhance surveillance for combating environmental disaster by Coast Guard (CG) has been drawn up. This envisages:

(i) Maritime reconnaissance by CG fixed wing aircraft fitted out with requisite sensors.

(ii) Random surveillance by available CG ships for detection of oil spills.

(iii) Formation of Crisis Management Groups at three levels to coordinate actions of a large number of inter-Ministerial agencies with a view to assess and combat oil pollution disasters in the Maritime Zones of India.

(iv) Formation of highly trained task force (three response teams based at Bombay, Madras and Port Blair) to assist and combat oil pollution at sea.

(v) Acquisition of dedicated pollution control equipment and pollution response vessels to combat oil pollution.

Government endeavours to provide all assistance to the Coast Guard which is commensurate with the task assigned and subject to the availability of funds.

Production of Prithvi Missiles

4707. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Prithvi missiles is being slowed down; and

(b) if so, the reasons for capping of the production of missiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The users' trials of 'Prithvi', surface-to-surface tactical battle field missile have been completed. Subsequent activities are being progressed.

letters written by M.Ps

4708. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *ALIAS* MEEM AFZAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry of Defence during the period